

66 Church Street

Englewood
New Jersey

May 12, 1944

My dear Miss Kleffer -

We have waited to respond to the call of the Urban League, with the hope we could contribute a little more than last year. With a lowered income we are finding it hard to keep up with contributions of other years, yet there are constant appeals from other sources that we feel are very important: this Negro question in our town is one of them. I enclose my check for \$2.00 which is all we can promise at this time. During the depression after the first World War, Negroes from other places - including those from southern states - came to Englewood because their relatives and friends reported they were well cared for here. Since then the Negro population has so increased that it has become a real menace.

It seems to us the great field for help is among the children. Here and there the elders can be raised, but it is our experience it is often time and money thrown away to do more than give them better housing and try to help them to be more cleanly - and so more healthful - in their habits. If the League and the schools will work together to raise the standard of the children, they will accomplish something worthwhile. We must not forget that the Negroes in this country today are only a few generations beyond the Africans who were brought here and sold as slaves. Having allowed so great a wrong in this country founded for freedom, this country owes something to every descendant of the race, but it will take several more generations to raise them to higher levels. It is not the color of their skins we discriminate against, it is their way of life as a class.

The children, we believe, need more manual training before they will be fitted for high-school education: ways they can support themselves later on until their minds have grown a bit.

Of course there are other nations whose children need re-education, too! We must not forget them. Where our school systems include vocational training they will accomplish far more than they are accomplishing now.

Cordially yours,

Alice Haines

Saxon Union Ship
WATER HOUSE